

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 VIENTI 04870 171137Z

42

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

IO-10 OMB-01 /072 W

----- 091545

R 171020Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4812

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 4870

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LA, US

SUBJ: COURTESY CALL ON NEW MINFONAFF PHOUNE SIPASEUTH

1. LATE MORNING JULY 17, AT MY REQUEST, I MADE CALL ON NEW ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUNE SIPASEUTH, WHICH I SOUGHT TO MAKE MORE SUBSTANTIVE THAN IS NORMAL ON SUCH OCCASIONS. I SPOKE FRENCH WHICH PHOUNE, I BELIEVE, UNDERSTOOD; HE ANSWERED IN LAO WHICH WAS TRANSLATED, SOMEWHAT INADEQUATELY, BY HIS CHEF DE CABINET, SOUBANH SRITHIRATH.

2. I THANKED HIM FOR RECEIVING ME AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION THAT MINFONAFF PHOUMI VONGVICHIT HAD RECEIVED ME IN LAST THREE MONTHS OFTEN AND AT ODD HOURS AND DAYS. I HOPED WE COULD MAINTAIN SUCH A DIALOGUE. I THEN WENT OVER HISTORY PAST COUPLE OF YEARS, NOTING OUR EFFORTS TO HELP LAO ACHIEVE 1973 VIENTIANE AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOL, OUR ROLE IN PUTTING DOWN GENERAL THAO MA COUP IN AUGUST 1973, OUR CONSISTENT SUPPORT OF PGNU SINCE APRIL 1974, OUR COOPERATION WITH ALL PGNU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 VIENTI 04870 171137Z

MINISTERS. U.S. POLICY, I SAID, WAS TO SUPPORT THE

PEACE, NEUTRALITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF LAOS. UNFORTUNATELY, EVENTS OF PAST THREE MONTHS HAD CONSIDERABLY SOURED CLIMATE OF OUR RELATIONS. I SAID TO UNDERSTAND USG POLICIES, ONE HAD TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF OPINION OF AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND THEY HAD RECEIVED POOR IMPRESSION OF SITUATION IN LAOS FROM MASSIVE PRESS AND TV COVERAGE. WHAT WAS IMPORTANT NOW, I COMMENTED, WAS TO CLEAR UP ALL THE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS (OCCUPATION OF COMPOUNDS, RESIDUAL EMBASSY AND PERSONAL MATERIALS IN USAID COMPOUNDS). IN OUR VIEW, NONE WAS DIFFICULT AND ALL COULD BE RESOLVED IN BRIEF ORDER IF THERE WAS GOODWILL.

3. SPEAKING IN LAO, ALMOST IN A WHISPER, PHOUNE WELCOMED MY VISIT AND SAID LAOS WANTED TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES. IT WOULD OTHERWISE BE "ISOLATED." THIS WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH 18-POINT PROGRAM. POLICY OF PGNU WAS ONE OF PEACE, INDEPENDENCE AND NEUTRALITY. HE AGREED THERE SHOULD BE GOODWILL ON BOTH SIDES.

4. I EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT HIS REMARKS, BUT NOTED THAT ACTS HAD TO GIVE SUBSTANCE TO WORDS AND REPEATED NEED TO RESOLVE IMMEDIATE, CONCRETE ISSUES. I NOTED THAT IN PRESENT CLIMATE, WHICH WAS FILLED DAILY BY RADIO AND PRESS WITH ANTI-AMERICAN IMPERIALIST DECLARATIONS, SMALL MATTERS TOOK ON LARGER ASPECTS. AS AN EXAMPLE, I CITED OUR DIFFICULTIES WITH RAL EMPLOYEES.

5. HE AGAIN GENTLY REITERATED DESIRE OF PGNU FOR GOOD RELATIONS AND NEED FOR GOODWILL. HE SAID WE SHOULD FORGET PAST AND LOOK TO FUTURE. HE THEN MENTIONED HE HOPED WE WOULD BE CONTINUING DELIVERIES ON OUR USAID PROJECTS. FORTUNATELY, I DID NOT HAVE TO ANSWER THIS POINT AS HE WENT ON TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER LAO REFUGEES IN THAILAND. I STATED FIRMLY THAT WE HAD NOT ENCOURAGED ANYONE TO LEAVE LAOS, WE WERE NOT ENCOURAGING ANYONE IN THAILAND TO ACT AGAINST PGNU, AND TO BEST OF OUR INFORMATION THERE WAS NO PLOT BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 VIENTI 04870 171137Z

LAO REFUGEES TO DO ANYTHING AGAINST LAOS. IN ANY CASE, US COULD NOT SUPPORT ANY SUCH EFFORT. HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION BY THESE REASSURANCES WITH APPEARING ENTIRELY CONVINCED. MEETING CLOSED AMICABLY.

6. COMMENT: PHOUNE HAS A GENTLE, SMILING AND RATHER CHARMING MANNER. HOWEVER, BENEATH IT, HE GIVES IMPRESSION OF CONSIDERABLE STRENGTH. AS INDICATED

IN THIS REPORT, HE DEALT ONLY IN GENERALITIES. WHETHER
THIS WAS INTENTIONAL AND MORE APPROPRIATE TO THE OCCASSION,
OR WHETHER IT WAS OUT OF IGNORANCE OF ISSUES, IS UN-
CERTAIN. THE ONE TROUBLING POINT OF COURSE IS
HIS REFERENCE TO UNFINISHED USAID PROJECTS. THIS IS
FIRST TIME QUESTION HAS SURFACED IN ALMOST ONE MONTH.
SINCE THEN, LPF HAVE REFERRED TO AID ONLY IN TERMS
OF BEGINNING NEW NEGOTIATIONS FOR FUTURE AID.
CHAPMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENTI04870
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750247-0691
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750745/aaaaboaj.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COURTESY CALL ON NEW MINFONAFF PHOUNE SIPASEUTH
TAGS: PFOR, LA, US, (PHOUNE SIPASEUTH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006